

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 5

Regulation 9(2)

Certification requirements

PART 1

Interpretation

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule—

“appropriate protocol” means—

- (a) a protocol published by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)(1) in relation to the particular activity (such as, but not limited to, sampling and testing or multiplication, renewal and propagation of mother plants) and the particular genus or species concerned;
- (b) where no such protocol mentioned at (a) exists, a protocol in relation to the same matters which has international recognition; or
- (c) where neither protocol mentioned at (a) or (b) exists, a protocol established by the Department in relation to the same matters;

“candidate pre-basic mother plant” means a mother plant which the supplier intends to have accepted as a pre-basic mother plant;

“multiplication” means vegetative production of a mother plant in order to obtain a sufficient number of mother plants in the same category;

“official inspection” means a visual inspection, and, where appropriate, sampling and testing carried out by an inspector in accordance with paragraph 2;

“pest” means any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products and listed in Annexes I, II and III of [Directive 2014/98/EU](#);

“renewal of a mother plant” means replacing a mother plant by a plant vegetatively produced from it;

“sampling and testing” means—

- (a) sampling and testing by an inspector and, where appropriate, the supplier in accordance with the appropriate protocol through submissions of samples to laboratories officially accepted by the Department for the purpose of such sampling and testing; and
- (b) in relation to viruses, viroids, virus-like diseases and phytoplasmas, testing by the method of biological indexing on indicator plants or such other testing method as the Department considers on the basis of peer reviewed scientific evidence, produces results as reliable as biological indexing on indicator plants.

(1) EPPO is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for co-operation and harmonization in plant protection within the European and Mediterranean region. Information may be obtained at the official website www.eppo.int.

Official inspections

- 2.—(1) During an official inspection, an inspector must pay attention to—
- (a) the suitability and use of methods by the supplier for checking each of the critical points in the production process;
 - (b) the overall competence of the supplier’s staff to carry out the production or reproduction of propagating material and fruit plants and, in particular, to carry out the following activities—
 - (i) identify and monitor critical points in their production process which influence the quality of the material;
 - (ii) keep information on the monitoring referred to in (i) available for examination when requested by the Department;
 - (iii) take samples where necessary for analysis in a laboratory; and
 - (iv) ensure that, during production, lots of propagating material remain separate.
- (2) An inspector must keep records of the results and dates of all field inspections and sampling and testing carried out by that inspector.

PART 2

Certification of pre-basic material

Propagating material (other than mother plants and rootstocks)

- 3.—(1) Propagating material (other than mother plants and other than rootstocks not belonging to a variety) may be certified as pre-basic material if that material meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).
- (2) The requirements are that the propagating material—
- (a) is directly propagated from a mother plant that has been—
 - (i) accepted in accordance with paragraph 5; or
 - (ii) obtained by multiplication or by micropropagation in accordance with paragraph 13;
 - (b) has been verified by an inspector as being true to the description of its variety in accordance with paragraph 7;
 - (c) has been maintained in accordance with paragraph 8;
 - (d) complies with the health requirement in paragraph 10;
 - (e) where authorised by the Department under paragraph 8(2) to be grown in the field under non-insect proof conditions, has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 11; and
 - (f) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12;
- (3) Where a pre-basic mother plant or pre-basic material no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs 2(b) to (f) or paragraph 8, the supplier must—
- (a) remove the mother plant or material from the vicinity of other pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material; or
 - (b) take appropriate measures to ensure that the mother plant or the material complies with those requirements again.

(4) A supplier may use any mother plant or material removed in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)(a) as basic material, certified material or CAC material provided the mother plant or material fulfils the requirements set out in these Regulations for the respective categories.

Rootstocks not belonging to a variety

4.—(1) A rootstock not belonging to a variety may be certified as pre-basic material if it meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The requirements are that the rootstock—

- (a) is directly propagated from a mother plant that has been—
 - (i) accepted in accordance with paragraph 6; or
 - (ii) obtained by multiplication or by micropropagation in accordance with paragraph 13;
- (b) is directly propagated from the mother plant by vegetative or sexual propagation, and in the case of sexual propagation, pollinating trees (pollenisers) are directly produced by vegetative propagation from the mother plant;
- (c) has been verified by an inspector as being true to the description of its species;
- (d) has been maintained in accordance with paragraph 8;
- (e) complies with the health requirements in paragraph 10;
- (f) where authorised under paragraph 7(2) to be grown in the field under non-insect proof conditions, has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 11; and
- (g) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12.

(3) Where a rootstock, which is a pre-basic mother plant or pre-basic material, no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs (2)(d) to (g) or paragraph 8, the supplier must—

- (a) remove the rootstock from the vicinity of other pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material; or
- (b) take appropriate measures to ensure that the rootstock complies with those requirements again.

(4) A supplier may use any rootstock removed in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)(a) as basic material, certified material or CAC material provided the rootstock fulfils the requirements set out in these Regulations for the respective categories.

Requirements for the acceptance of a pre-basic mother plant

5.—(1) A plant may be accepted as a pre-basic mother plant if an official inspection confirms—

- (a) it complies with paragraphs 7 to 12; and
- (b) its trueness to the description of its variety is established in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) An inspector must establish the trueness of the pre-basic mother plant to the description of its variety by the observation of the expression of the characteristics of the variety.

(3) That observation must be based on one of the following elements—

- (a) the official description for varieties registered in a register of varieties, and for varieties legally protected by a plant variety right;
- (b) the description accompanying the application for varieties which are the subject of an application for registration in any member State, as referred to in Article 5(1) of [Directive 2014/97/EU](#);

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- (c) the description accompanying the application for varieties which are the subject of an application for registration of a plant variety right;
 - (d) the officially recognised description, if the variety subject to that description is registered in a national register.
- (4) Where sub-paragraph (3)(b) or (c) applies—
- (a) the pre-basic mother plant may only be accepted if a report, produced by an inspector or by a responsible authority outside Northern Ireland, is available proving that the respective variety is distinct, uniform and stable;
 - (b) pending the registration of the variety, the mother plant concerned and the material produced from it may only be used for the production of basic material or certified material and must not be marketed as pre-basic material, basic material or certified material.
- (5) Where the establishment of the trueness to the description of the variety is only possible on the basis of the characteristics of a fruiting plant—
- (a) the observation of the expression of the characteristics of the variety must be carried out on the fruits of a fruiting plant propagated from the pre-basic mother plant; and
 - (b) those fruiting plants must be kept separate from the pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material.
- (6) Fruiting plants must be visually inspected in the most appropriate periods of the year taking into account climatic and growing conditions of plants of the genera or species concerned.
- (7) In this paragraph—
- “fruiting plant” means a plant propagated from a mother plant and grown for the production of fruit in order to permit the verification of the varietal identity of that mother plant;
- “register of varieties” means—
- (a) in relation to the registration of varieties in Northern Ireland, the register maintained in accordance with paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 3;
 - (b) in relation to the registration of varieties outside Northern Ireland, the register maintained in accordance with Article 3(1) of [Directive 2014/97/EU](#).

Requirements for the acceptance of a rootstock not belonging to a variety

6. The Department may accept a rootstock not belonging to a variety as a pre-basic mother plant if it is true to the description of its species and if it complies with paragraphs 8 to 12.

Verification of trueness to the description of the variety

7.—(1) The Department and, where appropriate, the supplier must regularly verify the trueness of pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material to the description of their variety in accordance with paragraph 4(2) and (3), as appropriate for the variety concerned and the propagation method used..

(2) In addition to the regular verification of pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material, the Department and, where appropriate, the supplier must, after each renewal of a mother plant, verify the pre-basic mother plants resulting from it.

Maintenance requirements: pre-basic material and pre-basic mother plants

8.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), a supplier must—

- (a) maintain pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material in facilities designated for the genera or species concerned, which are insect proof and ensure freedom from infection

- through aerial vectors and any other possible sources throughout the production process;
and
- (b) grow or produce pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material isolated from the soil, in pots of soil-free or of sterilised growing media identified by labels to ensure their traceability;
 - (c) ensure that pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material are individually identified throughout the production process;
 - (d) keep candidate pre-basic mother plants under insect proof conditions, and physically isolated from pre-basic mother plants in the facilities referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(a), until all tests concerning compliance with paragraph 9 have been concluded.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply where the Department authorises the production of pre-basic mother plants (including candidate pre-basic mother plants) and pre-basic material in a field under non-insect proof conditions, which the Department may do if satisfied—
- (a) the European Commission has authorised the United Kingdom to do so under Article 8(4) of [Directive 2014/98/EU](#);
 - (b) the plants and material are identified by labels that ensure traceability; and
 - (c) appropriate measures are taken to prevent infection of the plants and material by aerial vectors, root contact, cross infection by machinery, grafting tools or any other possible source.
- (3) Pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material may be maintained by cryopreservation.
- (4) Pre-basic mother plants may only be used for a period calculated on the basis of the stability of the variety or the environmental conditions under which they are grown and any other determinants having an impact on the stability of the variety.

Health requirements: candidate pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic mother plants produced by renewal

- 9.—(1) A candidate pre-basic mother plant must be free from the pests listed in Annex I and Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned.
- (2) Pre-basic mother plants produced by renewal must be free from the pests listed in Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) and the viruses and viroids, listed in Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned.
- (3) This is established—
- (a) in the case of pests listed in Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), by visual inspection in the facilities and fields and, in case of doubts concerning the presence of those pests, by sampling and testing;
 - (b) in the case of pests listed in Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), by visual inspection in the facilities and fields and, in relation to pre-basic mother plants produced by renewal, also of the lots, and by sampling and testing.
- (4) Subject to paragraph 5, sampling and testing for pests listed in Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) must take place—
- (a) in the most appropriate period of the year taking into account the climatic conditions and the growing conditions of the plant, and the biology of the pests relevant for that plant and, in the case of doubts concerning the presence of those pests, at any time of the year.
- (5) Where a candidate pre-basic mother plant is a seedling, visual inspection and sampling and testing is only required in respect of the viruses, viroids or virus-like diseases that are transmitted by pollen and listed in Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned if—

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- (a) an official inspection confirms the seedling concerned was grown from a seed produced by a plant free from symptoms caused by those viruses, viroids and virus-like diseases;
- (b) the seedling has been maintained in accordance with paragraph 8.

Health requirements: pre-basic material and pre-basic mother plants

10.—(1) A pre-basic mother plant or pre-basic material must be free from the pests listed in Part A of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) and in Annex II to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned.

(2) The percentage of pre-basic mother plants or pre-basic material infested by the pests listed in the table in Part B of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), must not exceed the tolerance levels set out in the relevant column of that table.

(3) Compliance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) is established by visual inspection in the facilities and fields of the lots and, in case of doubts concerning the presence of those pests, by sampling and testing.

(4) Visual inspections and sampling and testing must be carried out in accordance with Annex IV to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned and, in the case of sampling and testing, also in accordance with the appropriate protocol.

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply to pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material during cryopreservation.

Soil requirements

11.—(1) Pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material may only be grown in soil that is free from any pests which are listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.

(2) Freedom from such pests must be established by sampling and testing.

(3) Sampling and testing for pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) must be carried out—

(a) before the pre-basic mother plants or the pre-basic material is planted and must be repeated during growth where there is suspicion concerning the presence of the pests referred to in sub-paragraph (1);

(b) taking into account the climatic conditions and the biology of the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), and where those pests are relevant for the pre-basic mother plants or the pre-basic material concerned.

(4) Sampling and testing is not required—

(a) where plants, which are hosts for the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) for the genus or species concerned, have not been grown in the soil of production for a period of at least five years and where there is no doubt concerning the absence of the relevant pests in that soil;

(b) where the Department concludes, on the basis of an official inspection, that the soil is free from any pests which are listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned, and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.

Requirements concerning defects likely to impair quality

12.—(1) Pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material must be found practically free from defects on the basis of visual inspection.

(2) That visual inspection must be carried out by the Department and, where appropriate, the supplier.

(3) Injuries, discoloration, scar tissues or desiccation are considered as defects if they affect the quality and usefulness of a pre-basic mother plant or pre-basic material as propagating material.

Requirements concerning multiplication, renewal and propagation of pre-basic mother plants

13.—(1) A supplier may multiply or renew a pre-basic mother plant accepted in accordance with paragraph (4).

(2) A supplier may propagate a pre-basic mother plant to produce pre-basic material.

(3) Multiplication, renewal and propagation (including micropropagation) of pre-basic mother plants must take place in accordance with the appropriate protocol.

(4) In the case of micropropagation, the appropriate protocol must have been tested on the relevant genus or species for a period of time considered sufficient to allow phenotype validation of the plant as regards the trueness to the description of the variety based on the observation of the fruit production or of the vegetative development of rootstocks.

(5) A supplier may only renew a pre-basic mother plant before the end of the period referred to in paragraph 8(4).

PART 3

Certification of basic material

Propagating material (other than mother plants and other than rootstocks not belonging to a variety)

14.—(1) Propagating material (other than basic mother plants and other than rootstocks not belonging to a variety) may be certified as basic material if that material meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The requirements are that the propagating material—

(a) is propagated from a basic mother plant that has been—

(i) grown from pre-basic material; or

(ii) produced by multiplication from a basic mother plant in accordance with paragraph 19;

(b) has been verified by an inspector as being true to the description of its variety in accordance with paragraph 7;

(c) complies with the time period referred to in paragraph 8(4);

(d) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12;

(e) complies with the health requirements in paragraph 16;

(f) has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 17;

(g) has been maintained in accordance with paragraph 18; and

(h) where grown from pre-basic material, has been multiplied in accordance with paragraph 19.

(3) Where a basic mother plant or basic material no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs 2(b) to (f) or paragraph 8(1), the supplier must either—

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- (a) remove the mother plant or material from the vicinity of other basic mother plants and basic material; or
- (b) take appropriate measures to ensure that the mother plant or the material complies with those requirements again.

(4) A supplier may use any mother plant or material removed in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)(a) as certified material or CAC material provided the mother plant or material fulfils the requirements set out in these Regulations for the respective categories.

(5) For the purpose of this paragraph, any reference to pre-basic mother plants or to pre-basic material in paragraphs 7, 8(1) and (4) and 12 is to be construed as reference to basic mother plants or, as the case may be, to basic material.

Rootstock not belonging to a variety

15.—(1) A rootstock not belonging to a variety may be certified as basic material if it meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The requirements are that the rootstock—

- (a) is true to the description of its species;
- (b) is individually identified throughout the production process;
- (c) complies with the time period referred to in paragraph 8(4);
- (d) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12;
- (e) complies with the health requirements in paragraph 16;
- (f) has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 17;
- (g) has been maintained in accordance with paragraph 18; and
- (h) where grown from pre-basic material, has been multiplied in accordance with paragraph 19.

(3) Where a rootstock not belonging to a variety is a basic mother plant or basic material that no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs 2(b) to (f), the supplier must—

- (a) remove the rootstock from the vicinity of other basic mother plants and basic material; or
- (b) take appropriate measures to ensure the rootstock complies with those requirements again.

(4) A supplier may use any rootstock removed in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)(a) as certified material or CAC material provided the rootstock fulfils the requirements set out in these Regulations for the respective categories.

(5) For the purpose of this paragraph, any reference to pre-basic mother plants or pre-basic material in paragraphs 8(4) and 12 is to be construed as reference to basic mother plants or, as the case may be, to basic material.

Health requirements: basic mother plant or basic material

16.—(1) A basic mother plant or basic material must be free from the pests listed in Part A of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) and Annex II of [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned.

(2) The percentage of basic mother plants or basic material infested by the pests listed in the table in Part B of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) must not exceed the tolerance levels set out in the relevant column of that table.

(3) Compliance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) is established by visual inspection in the facilities, fields and lots and, in case of doubts concerning the presence of those pests, by sampling and testing.

(4) Visual inspections and sampling and testing must be carried out in accordance with Annex IV to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned and, in the case of sampling and testing, in accordance with the appropriate protocol.

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply to basic mother plants and basic material during cryopreservation.

Soil requirements: basic material

17.—(1) Basic mother plants and basic material may only be grown in soil that is free from any pests which are listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.

(2) Freedom from such pests must be established by sampling and testing.

(3) Sampling and testing for pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) must be carried out—

- (a) before the basic mother plants or the basic material is planted, and must be repeated during growth where there is suspicion concerning the presence of the pests referred to in sub-paragraph (1);
- (b) taking into account the climatic conditions and the biology of the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), and where those pests are relevant for the basic mother plants or the basic material concerned.

(4) Sampling and testing is not required—

- (a) where plants, which are hosts for the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) for the genus or species concerned, have not been grown in the soil of production for a period of at least five years and where there is no doubt concerning the absence of the relevant pests in that soil;
- (b) where the Department concludes on the basis of an official inspection that the soil is free from any pests which are listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned, and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.

Maintenance of basic mother plants and basic material

18. Basic mother plants and basic material must be maintained in fields isolated by distance from potential sources of infection including aerial vectors, root contact, cross infection by machinery, grafting tools and any other possible sources.

Conditions for multiplication

19.—(1) Basic mother plants grown from pre-basic material may be multiplied in a number of generations to obtain the necessary number of basic mother plants.

(2) A basic mother plant must be multiplied in accordance with paragraph 13 and, for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, a reference to a pre-basic mother plant in paragraph 13 is to be construed as a reference to a basic mother plant.

(3) The maximum permitted number of generations, and the maximum permitted life span of basic mother plants must not exceed the limits set out in Annex V to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) for the relevant genera or species.

(4) Where multiple generations of basic mother plants are permitted, each generation, other than the first one, may derive from any previous generation.

(5) Propagating material of different generations must be kept separate.

PART 4

Certification of certified material

Propagating material (other than mother plants) and fruit plants

20.—(1) Propagating material (other than mother plants) and fruit plants may be certified as certified material if the propagating material or fruit plant meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The requirements are that the propagating material or fruit plant—

(a) is propagated from a certified mother plant that—

(i) has been grown from pre-basic material or basic material; and

(ii) has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 23;

(b) has been verified by an inspector as being true to the description of its variety in accordance with paragraph 7;

(c) complies with the time period referred to in paragraph 8(4);

(d) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12;

(e) complies with the health requirements in paragraph 22; and

(f) has been grown in soil that is found, by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 23.

(3) Where a certified mother plant or certified material no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs (2)(b) to (f) the supplier must—

(a) remove the mother plant or material from the vicinity of other certified mother plants and certified material; or

(b) take appropriate measures to ensure that the mother plant or the material complies with those requirements again.

(4) A supplier may use any mother plant or material removed in accordance with paragraph (3)

(a) as CAC material provided the mother plant or material fulfils the requirements in Schedule 1 for CAC material.

(5) For the purpose of this paragraph, any reference to pre-basic mother plants or to pre-basic material in paragraphs 7, 8(4) and 12 is to be construed as reference to certified mother plants or, as the case may be, to certified material.

Rootstock not belonging to a variety

21.—(1) A rootstock not belonging to a variety may be certified as certified material if it meets the requirements in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The requirements are that the rootstock—

(a) is grown from a certified mother plant grown from pre-basic or basic material;

(b) is true to the description of its species;

(c) complies with the time period referred to in paragraph 8(4);

(d) complies with the requirements concerning defects in paragraph 12;

(e) complies with the health requirements in paragraph 22; and

(f) has been grown in soil that is found by sampling and testing, to comply with paragraph 23.

(3) Where a rootstock not belonging to a variety is a certified mother plant or certified material that no longer fulfils the requirements in sub-paragraphs (2)(b) (e) the supplier must—

- (a) remove the rootstock from the vicinity of other certified mother plants and certified material; or
 - (b) take appropriate measures to ensure the rootstock complies with those requirements again.
- (4) A supplier may use any rootstock removed in accordance with paragraph (3)(a) as CAC material provided the rootstock fulfils the requirements set out in Schedule 1 for CAC material.
- (5) For the purpose of this paragraph, any reference to pre-basic mother plants or to pre-basic material in paragraphs 8(4) and 12 is to be construed as reference to certified mother plants or, as the case may be, to certified material.

Health requirements: certified material

22.—(1) A certified mother plant or certified material must be free from the pests listed in Part A of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) and in Annex II of [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned.

(2) The percentage of certified mother plants or certified material infested by the pests listed in the table in Part B of Annex I to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), must not exceed the tolerance levels set out in the relevant column of that table.

(3) The Department, and, where appropriate, a supplier, establishes compliance with paragraphs (1) and (2) by visual inspection in the facilities, fields and lots and, in case of doubts concerning the presence of those pests, by sampling and testing.

(4) Visual inspections and sampling and testing must be conducted in accordance with Annex IV to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), as regards the genus or species concerned and, in the case of sampling and testing, also in accordance with the appropriate protocol.

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply to certified mother plants and certified material during cryopreservation.

Soil requirements: certified mother plants and certified material

23.—(1) Certified mother plants and certified material may only be grown in soil that is free from any pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.

(2) Freedom from such pests must be established by sampling and testing.

(3) Sampling and testing for pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) must be carried out—

(a) before the certified mother plant or the certified material is planted, and must be repeated during growth where there is suspicion the presence of the pests referred to in sub-paragraph (1);

(b) taking into account the climatic conditions and the biology of the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), and where those pests are relevant for the certified mother plants or the certified material concerned;

(4) Sampling and testing is not required—

(a) in the case of certified fruit plants;

(b) where plants, which are hosts for the pests listed in Annex III to [Directive 2014/98/EU](#) for the genus or species concerned, have not been grown in the soil of production for a period of at least five years and where there is no doubt concerning the absence of the relevant pests in that soil;

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- (c) where the Department concludes, on the basis of an official inspection, that the soil is free from any pests which are listed in Annex III to the [Directive 2014/98/EU](#), for the genus or species concerned, and which host viruses affecting that genus or species.